



Boy Scout Troop 631

Ithaca, Michigan

(founded 1915)

(Chartered by: United Methodist Church)

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Michigan House of Representatives
Transportation Committee
307 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909



Senate Bill No. 104 (2011)

(Authorizing Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Fundraising License Plate)

Testimony

State of Michigan Scouting Highlights for 2010:

- Scouting served over **83,000** youth across the state of Michigan.
- Nearly **30,000** adult role models serve as volunteer leaders in our state.
- Though many volunteers donate hundreds of hours of service annually, if you estimate very conservatively that each volunteer contributes one hour per week, the total hours donated would easily top 1.5 million hours per year. With the IRS valuation of about \$19 per volunteer hour, the value of our volunteers efforts in this state represent at least a \$30 million impact.
- In 2010, **1,384** young men earned their Eagle Scout award, Scouting's highest rank. These young men alone have led service projects in their communities with a total of over **185,000** man hours.
- What sets scouting apart from other organizations is our collaborative "chartered partnership" concept. Throughout our state, there are more than **2,835** grass roots scouting groups thanks to partnerships with churches and other civic organizations.
- The impact of scouting is priceless. How much is character development, citizenship training and personal fitness worth?
- Scouting is proud to have millions of alumni across America and throughout the world.

The following excerpt is from a speech given by the late President Gerald R. Ford on December 2, 1974:

"One of the proudest moments of my life came in the Court of Honor when I was awarded the Eagle Scout badge. I still have that badge. It is a treasured possession. I am the first Eagle Scout president. The three great principles which Scouting provides—self-discipline, teamwork, and moral and patriotic values—are the basic building blocks of leadership. I applaud the Scouting program for continuing to emphasize them. I am confident that your ability to bring ideals, values, and leadership training to millions of our young people will help to bring about a new era—a time in which not only our republic will progress in peace and freedom, but a time in which the entire world shall be secure, and all its people free."

Of Note:

- 75% of our Military Academy graduates were Boy Scouts*.
- 65% of U.S. Congressmen were Boy Scouts*.
- 85% of male FBI agents were Boy Scouts*.
- 26 of the first 29 astronauts were Boy Scouts*.
- 72% of male Rhodes Scholars were Boy Scouts*.

* *Scouter's Digest*, Volume 6, Number 31.

- As of September 30, 2010, there were 224,943 fundraising plates in Michigan, meaning that over **616** fundraising plates are being purchased or renewed each day.
- At least 17 states offer a Boy Scout license plate with 4 additional states pending.
- The funds generated by the "Boy Scouts" license plate would be used to help support the Michigan BSA Council's programs of enriching youth (i.e. Expanding and enriching existing youth programming and increasing endowed funds which offer camperships or reduced cost summer camp fees to youth in financial need).

The Boy Scouts of America Councils in the state of Michigan:

- 1) **Have the \$15,000 start-up fee for the Secretary of State in place (*committed*) pursuant to Section 257.811e (2) of the Motor Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949.**
- 2) **Are confident that we can comply with Section 257.811h regarding the first year sale of 2000 plates and the subsequent five-year renewal requirement of 500 new plates per year as we have approximately 20,000 new youth and adults joining scouting each year in Michigan.**
- 3) **In accordance with Section 257.811e (6a & 6b), are a non-profit organization with a proposed license plate design which will incorporate both our symbol (*logo on the left side of plate*) and our name (*wording on bottom edge of the plate*) whose purpose is widely recognized.**
- 4) **Have communicated with the Michigan State Police informing them of our willingness to utilize a design that meets their approval (*should they so desire*). Note: If we achieve our goal of 20,000 Boy Scout plates, that would still represent only one-half of one percent of the commemorative, fundraising and special cause plates currently in Michigan (*according to the most recent data available from the Secretary of State statistics from fiscal year ending 9/30/10*).**
- 5) **Have sought to have a Boy Scout Fundraising License Plate since shortly after the Secretary of State announced the program in 2000 (*see HB 4019 - 2003*).**

We thank our legislature and the citizens of the State of Michigan for your consideration and support of our fundraising license plate proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Bakker

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.